

**Karuah to Bulahdelah Upgrade Project  
Community Interest Group**

**NOTES**

**Meeting #10  
Tuesday 22 January 2008  
Project Site Office  
Pacific Highway  
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm**

**CIG members in attendance**

Myer Solomon	Greg Pitt	Rex Filson
Peter Kendall	John Kurth	
Yvonne Kendall	Kelly Kurth	
Juergen Seil	Cliff Johnson	

**Project representatives in attendance**

Steve Kiddle	Abigroup
Grant Fletcher	Abigroup
Matt Frodsham	Abigroup
Cindy Douglas	Abigroup
Al McKinnon	RTA
Ian Long	RTA

**Guest List**

Murry Curtis – ERM	Sue Limon
Paula O'Keefe	Bruce Limon
Richard Henley	Gail Opie
Kevin Lawson	Alex Opie
Sandra Lawson	
Andrea Maslen	
David Maslen	

**Apologies**

Dick Ahmling  
Dick Whibley, RTA

No.	Item	Issues / Actions	Action by
1	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<p>Matt Frodsham – Facilitator</p> <p>Welcome to all attendees and introduction of Cindy Douglas, Abigroup Community Relations Officer.</p> <p>Apologies noted.</p> <p>No comments from the previous meeting notes were received.</p>	
2	<b>Actions arising from last meeting</b>	<p>Highway speed limit – Members of the CIG had felt that the previous speed was too high for the Pacific Highway. It was strongly requested by members of the CIG that during construction the speed limit should be reduced to 80km/h.</p> <p>Abigroup advised following consultations with the RTA, that the highway speed limit adjacent to the alignment had been reduced to 80km/h (Bulahdelah to Nerong) and 90km/h from Nerong to the southern end of the project.</p> <p>The CIG advised the reduction in the speed limit was a positive change from a safety perspective and appreciated Abigroup's efforts.</p>	
3	<b>Abigroup Project update</b>	<p>Abigroup advised the weather was continuing to impact on works, resources had been increased to catch up on lost time.</p> <p><b>Southern Sections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select layer installation has commenced with the first layer of select materials being placed.</li> <li>• Blasting is almost complete at Cut 2, now waiting for Stage 2 of the works.</li> <li>• The alignment is now accessible from end to end to construction traffic.</li> <li>• A second entrance into the Main site compound will be opened late January, accommodating the additional traffic expected with the operation of the batch plant.</li> <li>• Earthworks levels for much of the southern alignment are approaching final levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>Waterholes Gap</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 150,000m<sup>3</sup> of blasted rock is ready to be moved once the weather clears.</li> <li>• One more blast may be required.</li> </ul> <p><b>Jacks Creek</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first arch has been completed with backfill works in progress to arch level.</li> <li>• Pavement will be approximately one metre higher than the arch when completed.</li> </ul>	

3.1	<b>Construction Update continued</b>	<p><b>Nerong South</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blasting is complete with material ready to be moved to the southern end of the project.</li> <li>Two sidetracks were opened onto the highway prior to Christmas allowing works to continue on the western side of the alignment.</li> <li>Construction of the North bound carriageway (adjacent to Nerong) has commenced with traffic diverted to the east whilst works are in progress.</li> </ul> <p><b>Whimbrel Drive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No significant works are occurring in this area with intersection works expected in late 2008.</li> </ul> <p><b>Northern Nerong</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blasting is continuing; the first cut zone will consist of a further three blasts and the second cut zone a further six blasts. Some of these blasts may occur concurrently reducing the impact on local residents.</li> <li>The total number of blasts is lower than originally anticipated.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grey Gum Bridges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bridge beams are scheduled for placement mid to late February 2008.</li> </ul> <p><b>Burdekins Gap</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works in fill areas are at alignment level with materials being transported to the northern end of the Project.</li> <li>Area south of the cutting is being used for materials stockpiling for Stage 1 &amp; 2 in late 2008.</li> </ul> <p><b>Burdekins Cut</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 400,000m<sup>3</sup> of blasted rock is ready to be moved.</li> <li>It is anticipated another ten blasts will occur; this will not impact on local residents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Stage 4 – Bulahdelah</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fencing and Earthworks operations have commenced through to the river.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bridges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All bridgeworks are on schedule, the weather has not affected the progress of works as bridges are not in the critical path of works.</li> </ul>	
3.1.1	<b>Questions</b>	<p>The CIG inquired if the existing Highway could be utilised as a road in at least one direction.</p> <p>Abigroup advised the horizontal and vertical alignment of the existing highway is not suitable to utilise and selective areas will be used as a borrow pit.</p>	

3.1.2		<p>The CIG inquired as to how many bridges are within the project.</p> <p>Abigroup advised a total of fourteen bridges will be constructed along the new alignment with nine under construction for Stage 1 of the Project.</p>	
3.1.3		<p>The CIG inquired if the old highway will be re-vegetated and what the speed limit along the new alignment will be.</p> <p>Abigroup advised the old highway will be re-vegetated where it is excavated and the speed limit will be 80km/h after the switch onto the southbound carriageway.</p>	
3.1.4		<p>The CIG inquired as to the next scheduled traffic switches.</p> <p>Abigroup advised the next traffic switches scheduled are at Jacks Creek and Grey Gum Gully.</p>	
3.1.5		<p>The CIG inquired if Abigroup incur a penalty from the RTA for the late completion.</p> <p>Abigroup advised we have contractual obligations to meet and despite the delays are still forecasting completion by October 2009.</p>	
4	<b>General Discussion</b>		
4.1		<p>Abigroup advised the CIG of a proposed information session in May 2008 to be held in Tea Gardens for the local residents.</p> <p>Abigroup is flexible in this regard and can generally accommodate a date March – May for this purpose. The date will be set in advance allowing the CIG members to advertise the Information Session providing suitable time for the community to attend.</p>	<b>Abigroup</b>
4.2		<p>A CIG member expressed their concern at the state of the intersection at the turn off for Nerong as the residents rely on Abigroup to keep the area tidy.</p> <p>Abigroup will inspect the area and report back to the CIG.</p>	<b>Abigroup</b>
4.3		<p>A CIG member inquired into the possibility of a temporary slip lane being constructed at the Nerong turnoff.</p> <p>Abigroup advised this matter had been discussed previously with RTA and no slip lane has been incorporated in the design.</p>	
4.4		<p>A CIG member expressed concern at the culvert/sediment pond located at chainage 84.04 and its capacity to cope with heavy rainfall.</p> <p>Abigroup advised the controls are for interim use only and will investigate and report back to the CIG.</p>	<b>Abigroup</b>

4.5		<p>The CIG expressed concerns from the noise presentation at the previous CIG Meeting. The CIG felt the presentation was complicated and difficult to understand. Residents had an expectation of noise walls similar to NABIAC and are disappointed that noise mounds are only required around Nerong.</p> <p>Abigroup acknowledged the concern and it will be noted for future noise presentations.</p>	
4.6		<p>A CIG member advised he has experienced some problems with his fence.</p> <p>Abigroup will investigate and repair the fence where needed.</p>	Abigroup
4.7		<p>A CIG member advised he had experienced difficulty in gaining access to his property due to construction works.</p> <p>Abigroup reminded the CIG members to please contact the 1800 726 567 number should they have any concerns or matters requiring attention rather than waiting to the CIG Meeting for matters to be resolved.</p>	Abigroup
4.8		<p>Abigroup is requesting feedback from CIG members regarding an application for after hours works, prior to submitting the application for approval to the DECC (Department of Conservation and Climate Change). The current approved working hours are Monday – Friday 6.30am – 7.00pm and Saturday 8.00am – 1.00pm.</p> <p><b>Proposed increase in hours of operation:</b> Saturday 1.00pm – 5.00pm</p> <p>The majority of the proposed works will be in the vicinity of Burdekin's Cut and Waterholes Cut however some works may extend across the whole project. The extension to the operating hours will not involve any rock hammering.</p> <p><b>Proposed increase hours of operation:</b> Sunday 9.00am – 5.00pm</p> <p>Proposed works will only include small contractor works (drainage etc) of a critical nature where minimal noise emissions will be emitted. These proposed works will predominantly be in the vicinity of Burdekin's Cut and Waterholes Cut and will not be within 1km of Nerong Village. These works will only be carried out on a 'needs basis' ensuring that essential works to the program are not delayed. All residents within a ½ kilometre of works will be consulted at least 24 hours prior to any works occurring in their area. These works will not occur every Sunday and will not involve works that emit disruptive noise emissions, for example, rock hammering.</p> <p>As a CIG member you are not required to provide a formal response however, any comments or feedback regarding the proposed increase of hours of operation will be submitted with the application to DECC. Please email your comments to <a href="mailto:karuah@abigroup.com.au">karuah@abigroup.com.au</a> or post to P.O. Box 231, Bulahdelah NSW 2423.</p>	

4.9		<p>Abigroup advised guests attending the CIG that the CIG meetings were closed to CIG members only unless an invitation was extended for additional guests to attend.</p> <p>Advertisements were placed in the local papers prior to the project commencing and those interested were required to submit an expression of interest.</p> <p>CIG members are required to represent the views of their respective communities at the meetings and keep them updated on the construction progress however this does not include the printing and distribution of the CIG notes.</p> <p>Abigroup advised the notes are posted to the project website (<a href="http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific">www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific</a> [click on Karuah to Bulahdelah Stage 2 &amp; 3]) for all to view as well as contact information, including a feedback facility for members of the public to provide their comments etc.</p> <p>If members of the groups you represent request copies of the notes of meetings, please refer them to the website, or ask that they contact the Site Office on 1800 726 567.</p> <p>Abigroup apologises for any misunderstanding in this regard but is obligated by conditions within the RTA Contract to administer CIG meetings according to the preset CIG meeting protocols.</p>	
5	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p><b>Meeting #11</b></p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 6.00pm – 8.00pm Project Site Office,</p>	